

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

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SUBJECT

Reconnaissance Bureau of the North Korean Army
General Headquarters

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Location

1. In late July 1952 the Reconnaissance Bureau of the North Korean army general headquarters, using field postal number 512 and charged with conducting intelligence operations against the United Nations in Korea, maintained its headquarters at approximately 125-43, 39-04 (YD-3924), in the outskirts of P'yongyang. The bureau personnel included 70 staff members, who were officers, and 202 agents.

History and Organization

2. The Reconnaissance Bureau was established as the information organ of the army general headquarters when the North Korean army was organized in February 1948. Before the outbreak of the Korean war the bureau was charged with collecting military, economic, and political information in South Korea, and it had detachments along the 38 parallel. After the war began the bureau was enlarged and its activities greatly increased. In October 1950 the bureau retreated to Mukden, Manchuria, returning to point YD-3924 in January 1951 when it resumed its functions and set up detachments at Kaesong (126-33, 37-58) (BT-8505) and Hoeyang (127-37, 38-42) (CT-8084).
3. In late July 1952 the Reconnaissance Bureau was composed of the following units:¹ the Staff Section; the Rear Section; the Secret Personnel Section; the Training Section; the Communications Section; the 1 Detachment at approximately 126-33, 38-05 (BT-8516), composed of three teams; the 2 Detachment at approximately 128-03, 38-31 (DT-1764), composed of three teams; and the 3 Detachment. The three teams of the 2 Detachment were at the following points: the 1 Team at approximately 128-21, 38-39 (DT-4379); the 2 Team at approximately

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128-13, 38-27 (DT-3057); and the 3 Team at approximately 128-07, 38-26 (DT-2254).

4. The commander of the Reconnaissance Bureau was Major General YI Sang-chu (2621/4161/2691). Some other officers of the Bureau were Lieutenant Colonel CH'OE Ki-song² (1508/1015/2052), 25 years old and a native of Hamgyong Province, commander of the 2 Detachment; Senior Lieutenant YI Sök-su (2621/4258/3178), 25 years old and born in Manchuria, commander of the 1 Team, 2 Detachment; Senior Lieutenant YI Pyöng-nak (2621/3521/3157), 23 years old and a native of P'yongyang, commander of the 2 Team, 2 Detachment; and Senior Lieutenant YI Am-sik (2621/1484/2784), aged 27, commander of the 3 Team, 2 Detachment.

Agent Training and Infiltration

5. Most of the Reconnaissance Bureau agents were natives of South Korea, about 30 years of age or older, middle school graduates, and well acquainted with the topography of South Korea. Agents were trained by the bureau's Training Section for three months in the following subjects: topography, military science, engineering, guerrilla warfare, communications; history of the Bolshevik Party, history of the NKLP, Korea since the liberation, and the Soviet Union in World War II.
6. Most agents infiltrated into South Korea wore civilian clothes. False certificates and identification cards were prepared by the bureau, and agents were given gold for operational expenses.

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Intelligence Targets

8. The following is a list of subjects about which the Reconnaissance Bureau sought information:
- a. Strength and disposition of United Nations and ROK troops on the front.
 - b. Enemy troop movements, positions, disposition in rear areas, weapons, and morale.
 - c. Transportation of supplies and supply dumps.
 - d. United Nations air bases.
 - e. Ship movements in South Korean port areas.
 - f. Economic and political information on South Korea.

Equipment and Weapons

9. The Reconnaissance Bureau was equipped with 6 Soviet-made trucks, with 3 at headquarters and 1 for each detachment; 3 jeeps at headquarters; 15 wireless sets, with 3 at headquarters and 4 for each detachment; and a number of boats. The bureau staff members were armed with pistols, and other personnel carried rifles and sub-machine guns.

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1. [] Comment. According to other information, the Reconnaissance Bureau is also known as the 560 Unit. The Reconnaissance Bureau is composed of two branches, the Reconnaissance Battalions and the Espionage Department. Under the Espionage Department of the Reconnaissance Bureau there are three detachments: the 1 Detachment, also known as the 312 Unit, the 2 Detachment, and the Military and Administrative Detachment. These facts are in an article on North Korean intelligence in the June 1952 issue of the Department of the Army's Intelligence Digest.

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2. [] Comment. According to other information in this office, dated 15 January 1952, Lieutenant Colonel CH'OE Ki-song was head of the 1 Detachment of the North Korean army's "Intelligence Bureau."

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